

CLAIMS:

1. A method of filling a prescription for a medicament including a designated amount of the medicament, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving a supply container of medicament corresponding to the prescription, there being prescription data corresponding to the prescription including the medicament stored in a computer, the container having machine-readable container indicia thereon representative of the medicament therein;
- (b) using an indicia-reading device coupled with said computer to read said container indicia, to produce container data representative thereof, and to provide said container data to said computer;
- (c) in said computer, comparing said container data and said prescription data to determine a match therebetween;
- (d) only if a match in step (c), prompting a printer to print a package label representative of said prescription;
- (e) removing the designated amount of medicament from said container and placing said designated amount into a package; and
- (f) applying said package label to said package.

2. The method of claim 1, step (d) including the step of printing medicament indicia on said package label representative of at least one physical attribute of the prescription medicament.

²/₃ The method of claim ¹/₂, step (d) including step of printing a word description of the medicament as said medicament indicia on said package label.

³/₄ The method of claim ²/₃, step (d) including the step of printing at least one of the shape, color pattern, color, scoring and form of the medicament as said medicament indicia on said package label.

⁴/₅ The method of claim ¹/₂, step (d) including the step of printing an image of the medicament as said medicament indicia on said package label.

⁵~~6~~. The method of claim ⁴~~5~~, the medicament having opposed faces, step (d) including the step of printing an image of both of said opposed faces as said medicament indicia on said package label.

9 ⁵~~6~~. The method of claim ¹~~2~~, the computer including a database of medicament data representative of selected physical attributes of selected medicaments including the prescription medicaments, step (c) including the step of retrieving medicament data corresponding to said prescription medicament from said database, step (d) including the step of printing medicament indicia corresponding to retrieved medicament data on said package label.

⁷~~8~~. The method of claim 1, step (d) including the step of printing said package label corresponding to said prescription in a selected language.

⁸~~9~~. The method of claim 1, said prescription label being a first prescription label, step (d) including one of the steps of printing selected prescription data on said first prescription label in both a first and a second selected language, and printing a second prescription label corresponding to said prescription in a selected language different from the language of said first prescription label.

⁹~~10~~. The method of claim 1, step (d) including the steps of printing the shape, color pattern, color, scoring and form of the medicament as said medicament indicia on said prescription label and printing an image of the medicament as said medicament indicia on said prescription label.

¹⁰~~11~~. The method of claim ⁹~~10~~, said container indicia including a bar code, said indicia reading device including a bar code reader, step (b) including the step of using said bar code reader to read said bar code.

¹¹~~12~~. The method of claim 1, said container indicia including a bar code, said indicia reading device including a bar code reader, step (b) including the step of using said bar code reader to read said bar code.

¹²
~~13.~~ The method of claim 1, said bar code being a UPC code corresponding to one of the national drug code (NDC) number and the drug identification number (DIN), step (b) including the step of determining one of the national drug code (NDC) number and the drug identification number (DIN) corresponding to said medicament as said container indicia from said bar code.

¹³
~~14.~~ The method of claim 1, step (d) including the step of prompting a printer to print said label with auxiliary information corresponding to said medicament.

¹⁴
~~15.~~ The method of claim 1, step (b) including the step of manually entering said container data into said computer when said container indicia is unreadable by machine.

¹⁵
~~16.~~ The method of claim 1, step (a) including at least one of the steps of displaying the location of said supply container, displaying a word description of the medicament, and displaying an image of the medicament on a monitor coupled with said computer.

00499741-110000

17. A medicament-dispensing apparatus for filling a prescription for a medicament including a designated amount of the medicament, said apparatus comprising:

- a prescription database including prescription data corresponding to a prescription to be filled including the medicament thereof;
 - a computer including means for accessing said prescription database for retrieving prescription data therefrom corresponding to the prescription to be filled;
 - a printer coupled with said computer and operable to print a prescription label representative of the prescription; and
 - an indicia-reading device coupled with said computer and operable to read container indicia on a supply container of a medicament, said container data being representative of the medicament contained in the container, said device being operable to provide said container data to said computer,
- said computer including means for comparing said container data and said prescription data to determine a match therebetween and in response, prompting said printer to print the prescription label.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, said container indicia including a bar code, said indicia-reading device including a bar code reader.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 further including an attribute database including attribute data representative of at least one physical attribute of the medicament, said computer including means for accessing said attribute database and for retrieving attribute data therefrom corresponding to the prescription medicament and for activating said printer to print the prescription label with medicament indicia thereon representative of at least one physical attribute of the prescription medicament.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, said medicament indicia including at least one of the shape, color pattern, color, scoring and form of the medicament.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, said medicament indicia including at least one image of the prescription medicament.

20
22. The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~21~~, the medicament indicia including a shape, color pattern, color, scoring and form of the prescription medicament.

21
23. The apparatus of claim ^{17 16}~~18~~, the prescription label being printed in a first language, said apparatus including a language database of language data representative of the prescription in a second language, said computer having means for accessing said language database and retrieving language data therefrom corresponding to a prescription, and for activating said printer to print a second prescription label in said second language.

22
24. The apparatus of claim ^{17 16}~~19~~, the prescription label being printed in a first language, said apparatus including a language database of language data representative of the prescription in a second language, said computer having means for accessing said language database and retrieving language data therefrom corresponding to a prescription, and for activating said printer to print additional prescription data thereon corresponding to said second language.

23
25. The apparatus of claim ¹⁶~~17~~, said bar code being a UPC code corresponding to one of the national drug code (NDC) number and the drug identification number (DIN) corresponding to said medicament, said computer being operable to determine one of said NDC number and DIN number from said bar code.

24
26. The apparatus of claim ¹⁶~~17~~, said prescription database including data representative of auxiliary information corresponding to said medicament, said computer including means for prompting said printer to print said label with said auxiliary information.

25
27. The apparatus of claim ¹⁶~~17~~, further including means for manual entry of said container data.

26
28. The apparatus of claim ¹⁶~~17~~, said computer including means for displaying at least one of the location of a supply container corresponding to the medicament of the prescription, a word description of said medicament, and an image of said medicament.

29 A method of filling a prescription for a medicament including a designated amount of the medicament, said method comprising:

- (a) receiving prescription data into a computer corresponding to a prescription to be filled, the prescription data including data representative of the prescription medicament;
- (b) in said computer, retrieving attribute data from an attribute database, said attribute data being representative of at least one physical attribute of the prescription medicament;
- (c) printing a prescription label with prescription data thereon representative of the prescription and with medicament indicia corresponding to said attribute data.

30. The method of claim 29 step (b) including the step of retrieving a word description of the medicament as said attribute data.

²⁸/₃₁ The method of claim ²⁷/₂₉, step (b) including the step of retrieving at least one of the shape, color pattern, color, scoring and form of the medicament as said word description.

²⁹/₃₂ The method of claim ²⁷/₂₉, step (b) including the step of retrieving image data representative of at least one image of medicament as said attribute data, step (c) including the step of printing the prescription label with an image of the medicament as said medicament indicia.

³⁰/₃₃ The method of claim ²⁷/₂₉, the medicament having opposed faces, step (b) including the step of retrieving data representative of images of the opposed faces of the medicament.

001834 1400

5

~~including
ing attr
ption to
led with~~

~~including
ing attr
ption to
led with~~

~~including
ing attr
ption to
led with~~

~~including
ing attr
ption to
led with~~

the appa
he med

32
~~36.~~

33
~~27~~

34
~~38.~~

35
30

5 ~~40.~~ A prescription-filling apparatus for filling a prescription for a medicament including a designated amount of the medicament, said apparatus comprising:

- 10 a language database including language data corresponding to the prescription in a second language;
 a computer including means for accessing said language database for retrieving language data therefrom corresponding to the prescription to be filled; and
 a printer coupled with said computer and operable to print a prescription label representative of the prescription,
 said computer including means for activating said printer to print a prescription label with prescription data thereon corresponding to said second language.

15 ~~37~~ 41. The apparatus of claim ~~40~~ ³⁶, said computer including means for activating means for said printer to print a first prescription label in a first language and a second prescription label in said second language.

20 ~~42.~~ A method of filling a prescription for a medicament including a designated amount of the medicament, said method comprising:

- 25 (a) receiving prescription data into a computer corresponding to a prescription to be filled in a first language, the prescription data including data representative of the prescription medicament;
 (b) in said computer, retrieving language data from a language database, said language data being representative of the prescription in a second language; and
 (c) printing a prescription label with prescription data thereon in said first language and in said second language.

30 43. The method of claim 42, step (c) including the step of printing a prescription label only in said second language.

35 44. The method of claim 42, step (c) including the step of printing a first label in said first language and a second label in said second language.